

ONWARD ONEIDA COUNTY COMMITTEE
MAY 1, 2020
Minutes

Committee members present: Chairman Dave Hintz, Alan VanRaalte, Billy Fried, Steven Schreier, Mike Timmons, Bob Mott, Tom Kelly. Also present were Chief Deputy Dan Hess from the Oneida County Sheriff's Office, Health Director Linda Conlon and Brad Kowieski from the Oneida County Economic Development Corporation.

Call to order: Chairman Hintz called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom teleconference. The meeting has been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting law and the facility is handicap accessible.

Election of Vice Chair – County Board Chairman Dave Hintz – Hintz stated that a vice-chair would need to be nominated and elected for the Onward Oneida County Committee.

- Tom Kelly nominated Billy Fried

Motion Kelly/Fried to close nominations and unanimously elect Billy Fried as vice-chair. All aye; motion carried.

Chair's Perspective – County Board Chairman Dave Hintz – Hintz gave a brief review of the COVID-19 pandemic and negative impacts that it has had nationwide and on our local communities. Hintz discussed how Oneida County is different from other Counties in Wisconsin and the Nation. Hintz discussed some alternatives to how Oneida County can consider opening. Hintz gave some ideas regarding what Oneida County can do, what this committee can do and some ideas on options for how to proceed. Mott questioned what powers the County has to go against the State orders. Discussion regarding the ability to advocate having regional differences in the State plan. Schreier cautioned that viruses don't know boundaries and once a decision is made and action is taken there is no going back. VanRaalte encouraged caution with how the committee proceeds. Mott would like to see a discussion about how to handle tourists that will be coming into Oneida County and how to keep Oneida County residents safe.

Oneida County Pandemic History, Status and Management – Public Health Director Linda

Conlon – Conlon gave a brief overview of the timeline of COVID-19 worldwide, nationwide, statewide and in Oneida County. Conlon discussed the testing, how many tests have been completed, where the testing is completed and the length of time testing is taking. Discussion regarding who can be tested. Conlon stated that in Oneida County testing is still focusing on people with symptoms. Conlon discussed the PPE's in Oneida County and where Oneida County is currently sitting for supplies. Conlon gave an overview of the 6 cases in Oneida County. Conlon explained the contact notifications that need to occur when someone has tested positive for COVID-19. Discussion regarding the staffing level that would be needed at the Health Department for disease investigation and follow-up if the rate of COVID-19 increases drastically. Conlon presented a chart showing the peak if all contact is opened up on May 26th.

Current State Plan – Public Health Director Linda Conlon

- a. **Badger Bounce Back** – Conlon presented the Badger Bounce Back Plan and what that looks like. Conlon stated that the Badger Bounce Back plan gives guidance to move from phase to phase. Currently the State is in the gating criteria and in order to move to the next phase we need to see an increase in lab results, contact tracking, increase in health care preparedness and PPE's. The next phase will look at creating criteria for best practices.
- b. **Other Plans** – Conlon briefly presented three other plans that have circulated: 1) The Wisconsin Manufacturer and Commerce Plan, 2) Better Together Badger Task Force: Janesville, 3) Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce: Smart Restart Plan. Conlon reported that

regardless what plan is implemented (one hour). Schreier questioned how quickly Oneida County would reach full capacity in our health care systems if there is a surge of COVID-19 in the area.

Public Comment – County Board Chairman Dave Hintz – Hintz opened the meeting up for public comment. Terry Lucas, Vice-Chair of Forest County Board, thanked Linda Conlon for the information. Ronald De Bruyne, Vilas County Board Chair, would like to be included if a letter is written.

Next Steps – County Board Chairman Dave Hintz – Hintz opened the floor for next step ideas from the committee. Conlon stated that she would like to see a letter to the Governor with ideas on how to move Oneida County forward. Conlon also would like to see a survey with businesses or bringing businesses into this committee. Hintz stated that he would like to see this committee work with the Oneida County Economic Development Corporation to help create a plan to help local businesses succeed. Hintz would also like to look at creating a coalition with surrounding counties. Billy Fried would like the committee to consider creating a resolution that would go to the Governor and to keep things moving quickly. Fried stated that time is imperative and the committee needs to make certain that it isn't spread too thin. Bob Mott stated that he would like to see a plan on standards for when the County reopens. Fried stated that many of the business organizations have already created standards and those should be considered. Discussion regarding PPE supplies for businesses when they reopen. Hintz would like to see this committee adopt a plan to send a letter to Madison quickly and not wait for the next County Board meeting on May 19th. Hintz would like to see 2-3 committee members work on the letter or resolution prior to the next meeting and at the meeting the committee would consider endorsing a plan to send to the Governor. Fried will send a copy of the resolution that Minocqua passed to each of the committee members for review. VanRaalte stated that the committee needs to take into consideration not only the risk of opening up to soon but also the risk of staying closed (elder abuse, child abuse, etc). Bob Mott and Steven Schreier will work on a resolution/letter based on the comments made by the committee and will bring it back to this committee for review at the next meeting. Hintz will continue to work with adjoining counties to get a better idea of where they stand and how they are moving forward. Mott would like to encourage the committee members to look at the other plans that were mentioned in this meeting for ideas.

Dates and items for future agenda/meetings: Hintz would like to see the next meeting in a week and dates and times will be sent to the committee members.

Adjourn – Hintz adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,
/s/tracy Hartman

Tracy Hartman, Recording Secretary
Oneida County Clerk

/s/ dave hintz
David Hintz, Chair